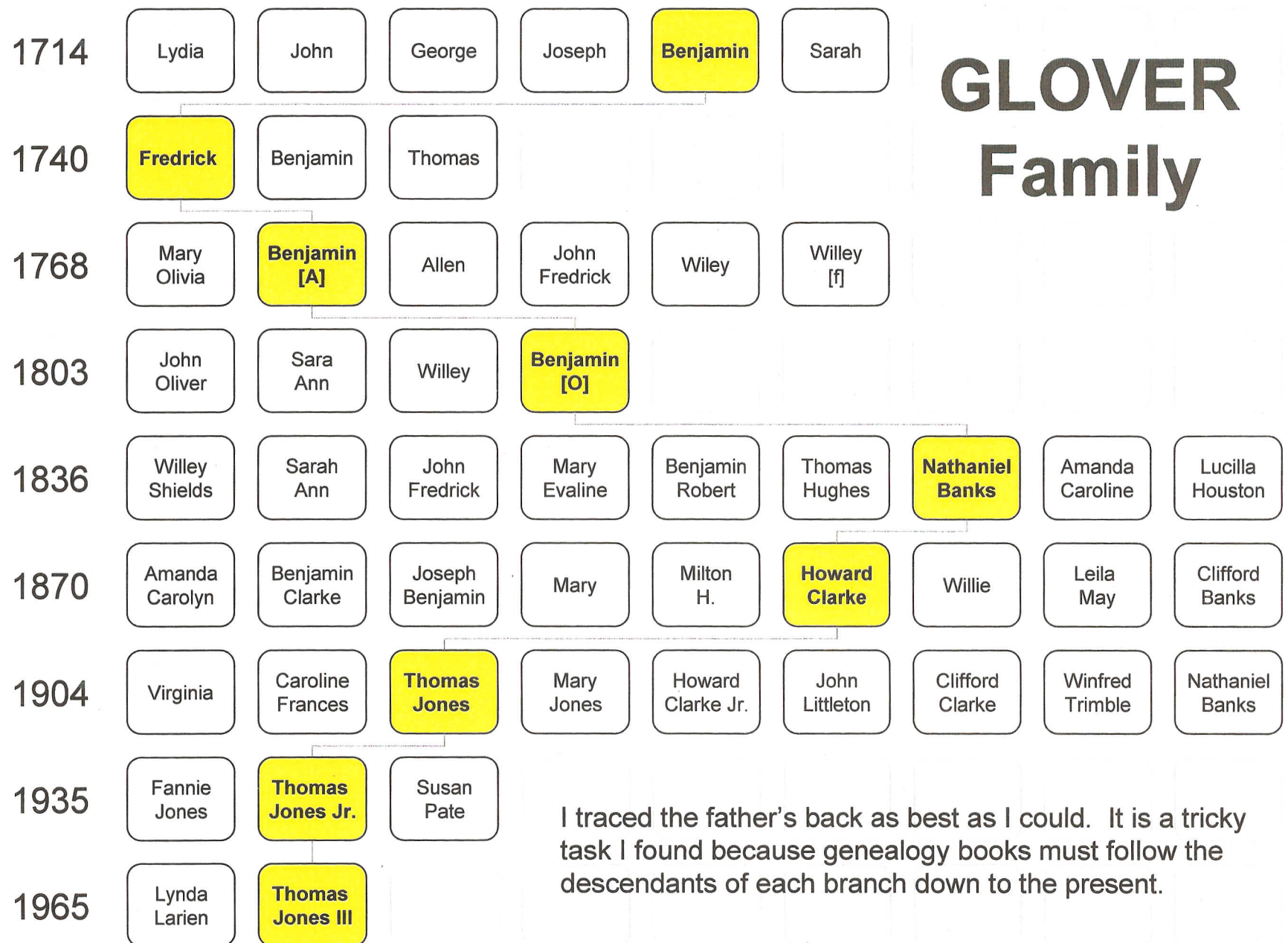


It started with this picture of the Glover Allen Steam ship I saw at the family reunion. It struck a cord with me - something about the high chalky white banks gave the river and the boat a mysterious look. When Dad (Tommy) died, I found a copy of this picture and on the back it said Demopolis AL. Anyway, I decided at that moment to find out where my "folks is laid to rest". I knew that Daddy, POP (my grandfather), Howard (my great grandfather), and Nathaniel my (great great grand father) were all buried in the Newnan cemetery - but before that - I hadn't a clue.

I did a little research in the Glover book and made some notes. You will see these notes on the slides that follow. I found the text to be a little unclear in spots. It seems to repeat and conflict itself a little around places and references so I did my best to put together a chronological storyline. It lead me to Nathaniel's father and grandfather. Both named Benjamin. I call them I and II. or [O] and [A] based on their wives - we don't know if they had middle names or not.

I knew that Benjamin I and Allen (his younger brother) both left Abbeville District SC about the same time and settled in Demopolis AL. Based on what the book said about Allen, he thrived and left a legacy, which still stands today. Benjamin I died in Demopolis only two years after arriving, however, his son Benjamin II lived a long time in Wilcox Co. (just south of Demopolis) where he built a plantation house of his own. I never found his house but I did find his grave. If you find his house, please take a picture and let me know where it is.

OK, here is my adventure as it unfolded.



Benjamin
[A]

Benjamin [I] m: "Polly" Mary Amanda Elvina Fitzallen Oliver

Born: 1768
Married: 1785 age 17
Child first 1788 age 20
Child last 1803 age 35
Died: 1820 age 52

See p34 & p154 of Glover Book

1768 Benjamin was the oldest son of Fredrick and was likely born in Abbeville Co. SC (District 96) – His daddy Fredrick was 28 years old (3 years married to Sarah – maybe a second marriage) when Benjamin was born. Fredrick had recently moved from Northampton Co. NC (near VA border) just a few years before Benjamin was born. Between 1770 and 1790 (Benjamin grows up from age 2 to 22), Fredrick, his dad, purchased nearly 2,000 ac. in SC near the Savannah River (part of this land fell into what was called at some point Abbeville Co. SC).

Siblings: Olive, Benjamin's sister is born 2 years before Benjamin, Benjamin is born in 1768. When Benjamin is 2 yrs old his brother Allen is born, 4 yrs old John Fredrick, 6 yrs old Wiley, and 10 yrs old Willey is born

1785 Benjamin (age 17) is married to Mary Oliver "Polly" in Wilkes Co. GA (her side of the family and just over the river)

1786 Benjamin and/or Fredrick builds a large brick home in Cambridge SC

1788 buys 1,000 acres in the area with his Father-in-Law, John Oliver

1788 Has first child Willey (daughter), 1790-1795 John Oliver (son) is born [Benjamin is now age 22-27]

1797 Fredrick (Benjamin's dad) dies in 1797 age 57, Benjamin is 29 years old – Benjamin is named the executor

1803 Benjamin II is born – (Benjamin I is now 35 years old)

1815 Benjamin I and his brother Allen entertain Bishop Asbury in their homes (Abbeville SC) Benjamin I is 47

1816 Sarah, Benjamin's daughter (don't know her birth date) is married and there is a big wedding in SC

1817 Sarah dies giving birth in 1818 The house burns down

1819 At age 50, Benjamin sells his vast possessions and **moves to Marengo AL** with his brothers Allen & his son Benjamin II (now 16). Benjamin I&II settle in Prairie Bluff, Wilcox Co. – Allen (brother) settle in Marengo Co. in Demopolis.

1820 Benjamin **dies** (age 52). He was helping survey and layout the town of Demopolis - he was a civil engineer and was exposed to the elements. Since there was no easy way of making a coffin, his slaves hollowed out a large live-oak tree and made a resting place near his two story log cabin on the high chalk cliffs on the banks of the Tombigbee River.[TJ] the log cabin must have been a work camp. I am guessing he had his son managing the building project for his plantation in near the settlement of Prairie Bluff (it once was a big community see pictures from the "Heritage of Wilcox Co.") steamboats loading cotton – the works. Also we know that Benjamin son is buried there.

Benjamin
[O]

Benjamin Oliver [II] m: Mary Amanda Hughes

Born: 1803
Married: 1822 age 19
Child first 1823 age 20
Child last 1842 age 39
Died: 1872 age 69

See p34 & p154 of Glover Book

1803 Benjamin Oliver was born in Abbeville District SC along the Savannah River – or in Wilkes Co. GA just across the river. His father Benjamin [I] (now age 35) had been doing business with his father-in-law John Oliver for around 15 years and was already a wealthy man on his own. Benjamin [II] never knew Fredrick, his grandfather, because he passed away six years before he was born.

1815 Benjamin [II] was 12 years old when his dad and uncle entertained Bishop Ashbury

1817 Benjamin [II]'s older sister Sarah, died while birthing her first child – one year after marrying D'Ampert

1818 The Plantation House in SC burned down and His Dad Benjamin [I] and his Uncles Alan and Wiley decided to sell all of there vast possessions and move to the Black Belt Region in AL near Demopolis in Marengo and Wilcox Counties.

1819 He is now 16 years old and his family moves to Marengo / Wilcox AL with uncle Allen and uncle Wiley. Uncle Allen settles in Demopolis and becomes a very big wig there - see Allen

Benjamin [I] and [II] settle in Prairie Bluff Wilcox Co - just south of Marengo. Like Demopolis, Prairie Bluff was very large community at the time where a cotton warehouse and loading slides for steamboats existed - there are paintings of this in the book titled "Heritage of Wilcox Co." - there is a another reference to him establishing a plantation near the site of the town of McKinley.

1820 Dad (Benjamin [I]) died while helping layout the town of Demopolis and is buried on the bluffs of the Tombigbee – probably near the present day Glover cemetery.

1822 Benjamin [II] age 19 gets married to Mary Amanda Hughes from Marengo Co. daughter of Amanda Norwood and Robert Hughes. Mary Amanda Hughes was the niece of Sarah Serena Norwood Glover - he married well. This is just three years after moving to AL [TJ] too bad his father could not be at the wedding - I am sure he would have been proud

1823 – 1839 He has nine children

1836 – Nathaniel Banks Glover is born (Benjamin II is now 33 years old)

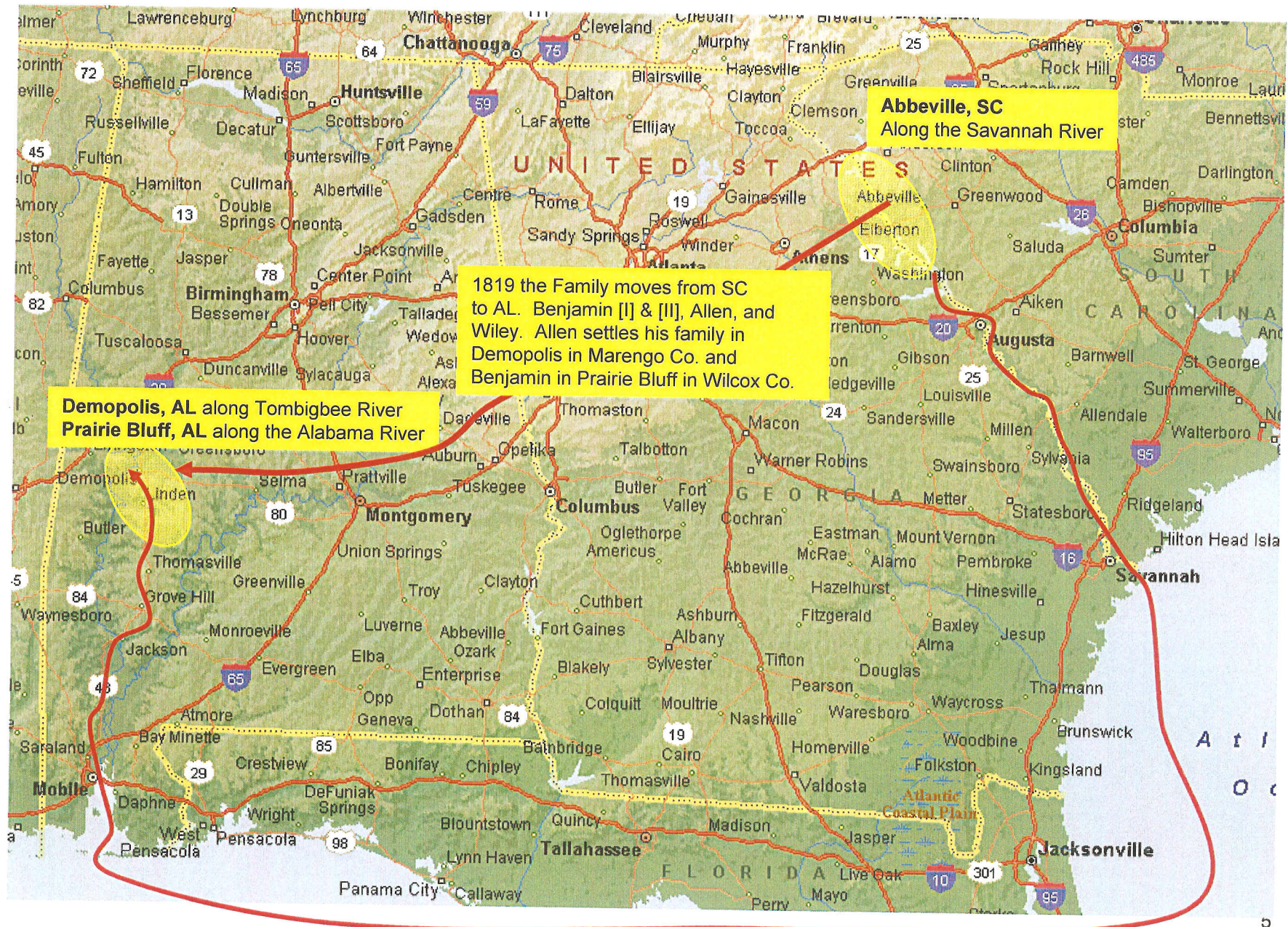
1858 – His wife dies

1861 – His son Nathaniel goes off to fight in the Civil War – we don't know how or if Benjamin contributed to the war

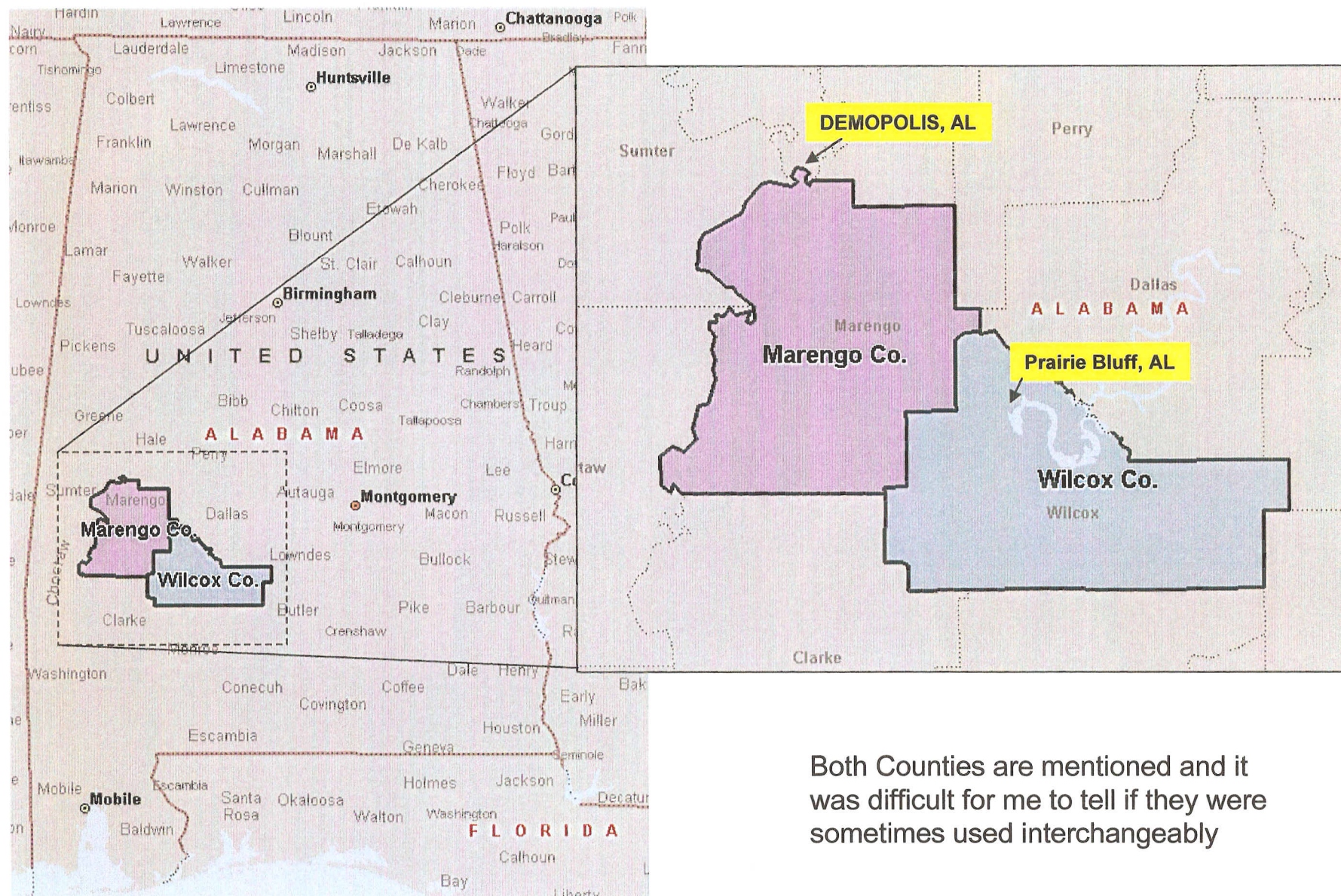
1870 – His son Nathaniel has Howard Clark (Benjamin II is now 67 years old)

1872 – Benjamin II (age 69) dies in Selma AL on his way back to his home – he is buried in the Glover-Creagh cemetery near Catherine AL.

1817 Family migrates from SC to AL's Black Belt

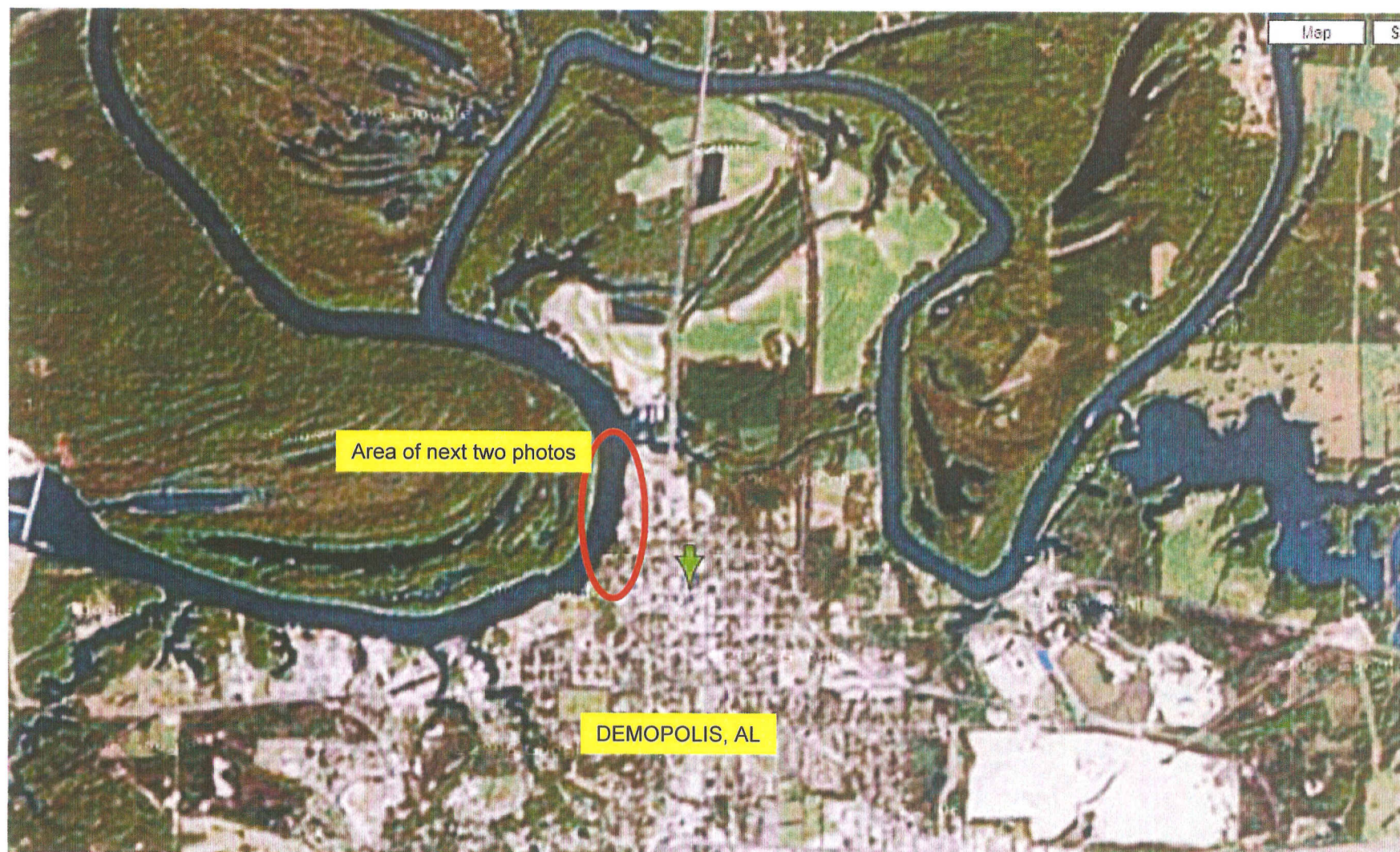


Alabama Counties referenced in the books



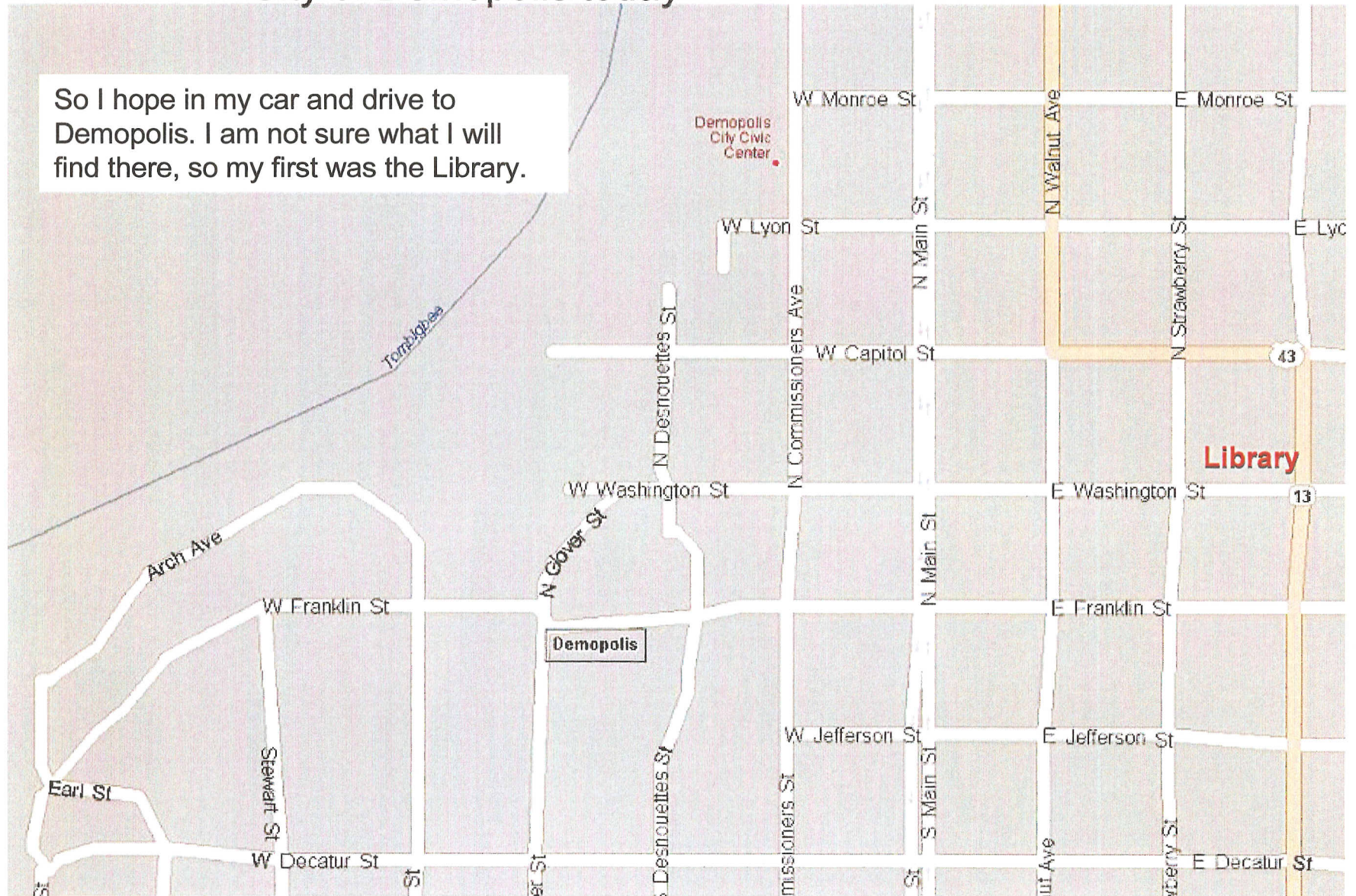
Both Counties are mentioned and it was difficult for me to tell if they were sometimes used interchangeably

Satellite image of Demopolis AL – current day 2006



City of Demopolis today

So I hope in my car and drive to Demopolis. I am not sure what I will find there, so my first was the Library.



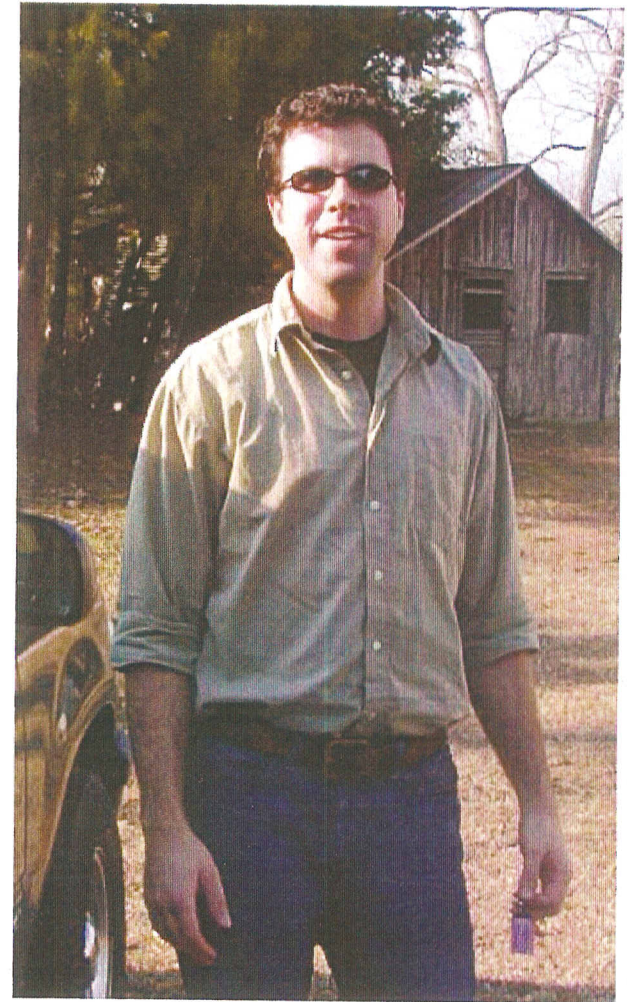


I will get her name and info.

The Good Lord was shinning on me and my adventure. The librarian was not some little old lady with no time for a wondering soul, but a cute young lady. She was herself a geneology buff and showed me interesting works by other locals. She then agreed to have lunch with me that very day.

It turns out her boyfriend is the local historian !!!

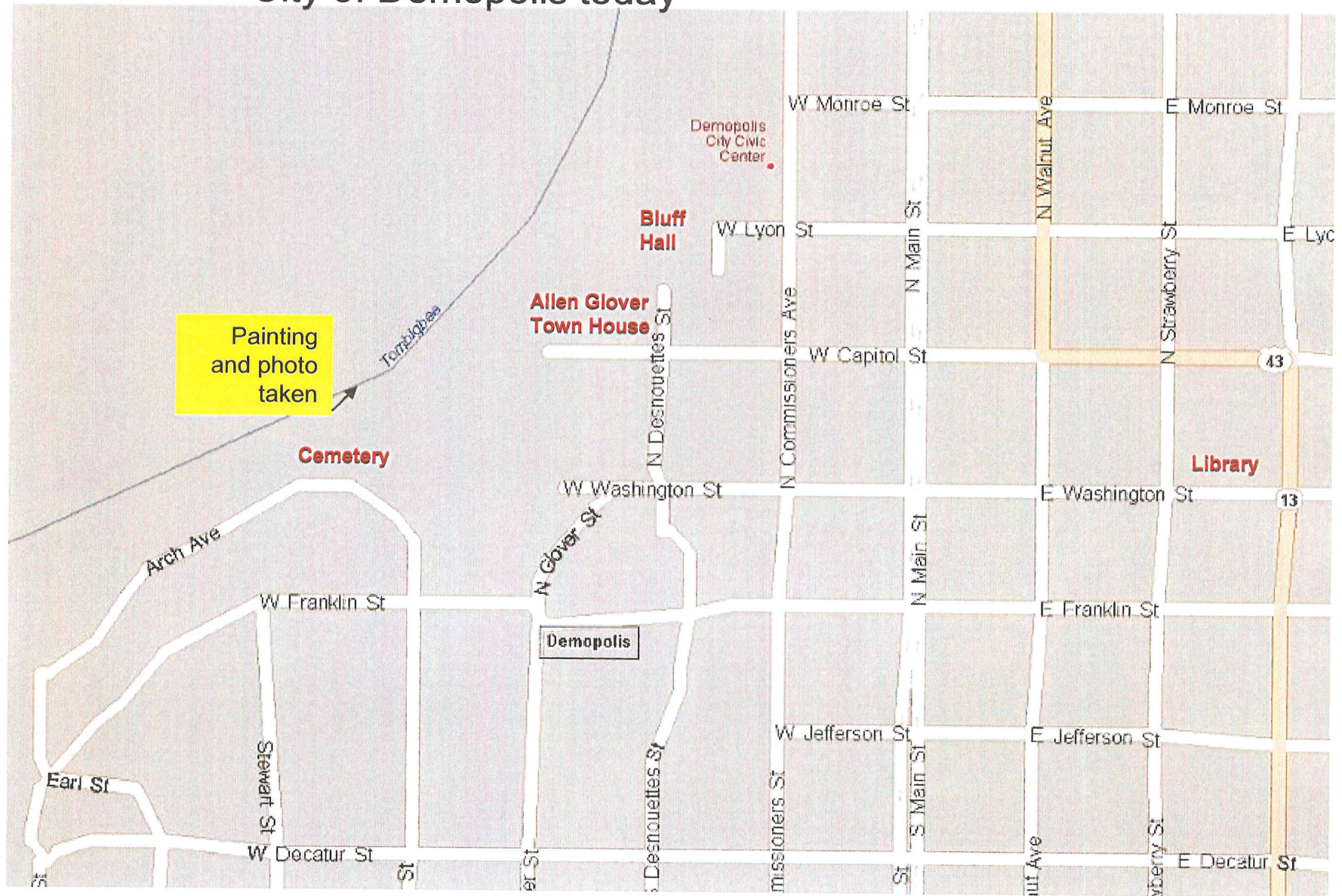
So we went to lunch and met her boyfriend who happens to be the towns historian. I showed my copy of the painting and he laughed. I new where the original was and also knew about to stand for the same view. It really was a God thing I think.



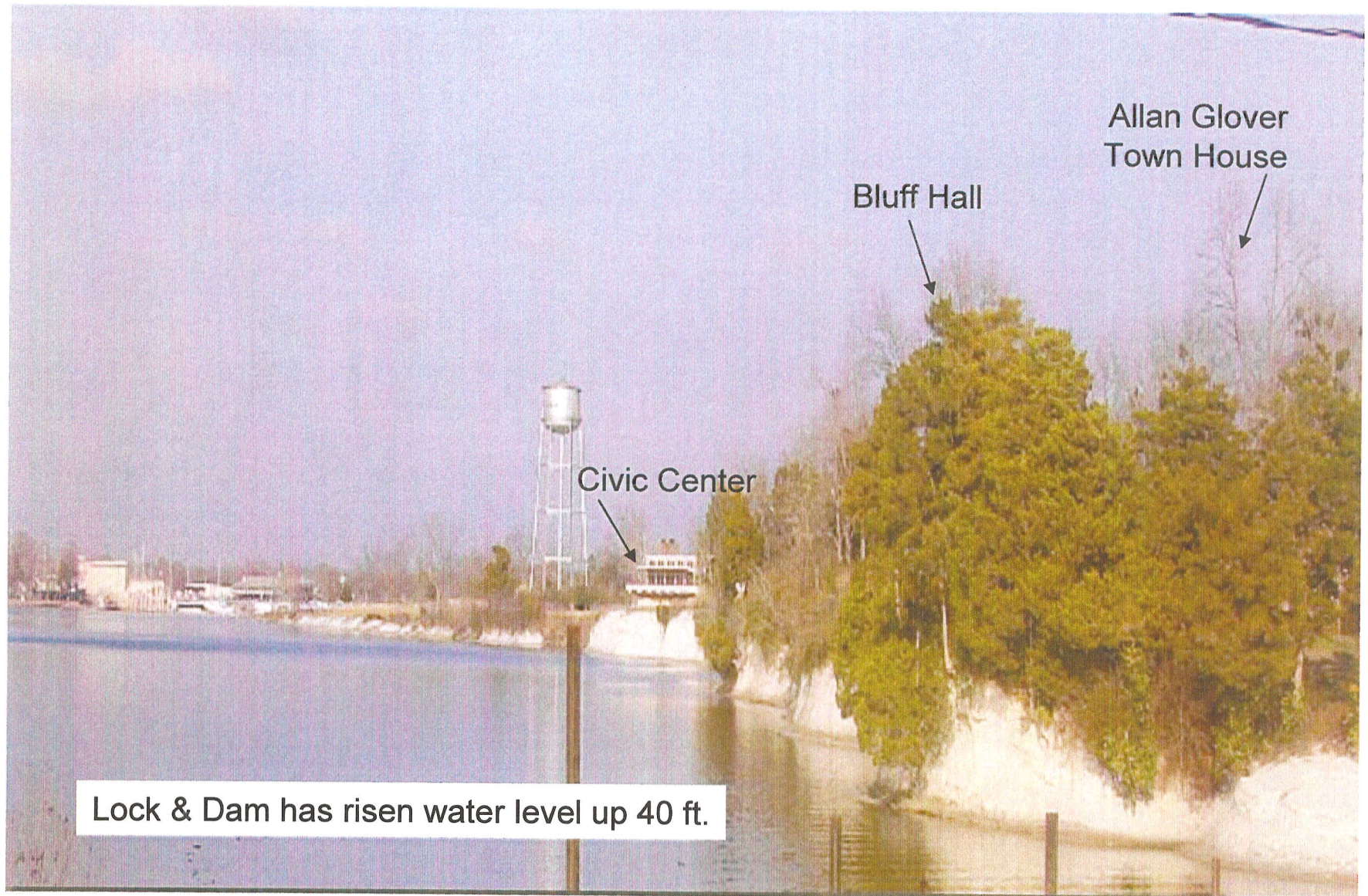
1830s DEMOPOLIS, AL – along the Tombigbee River



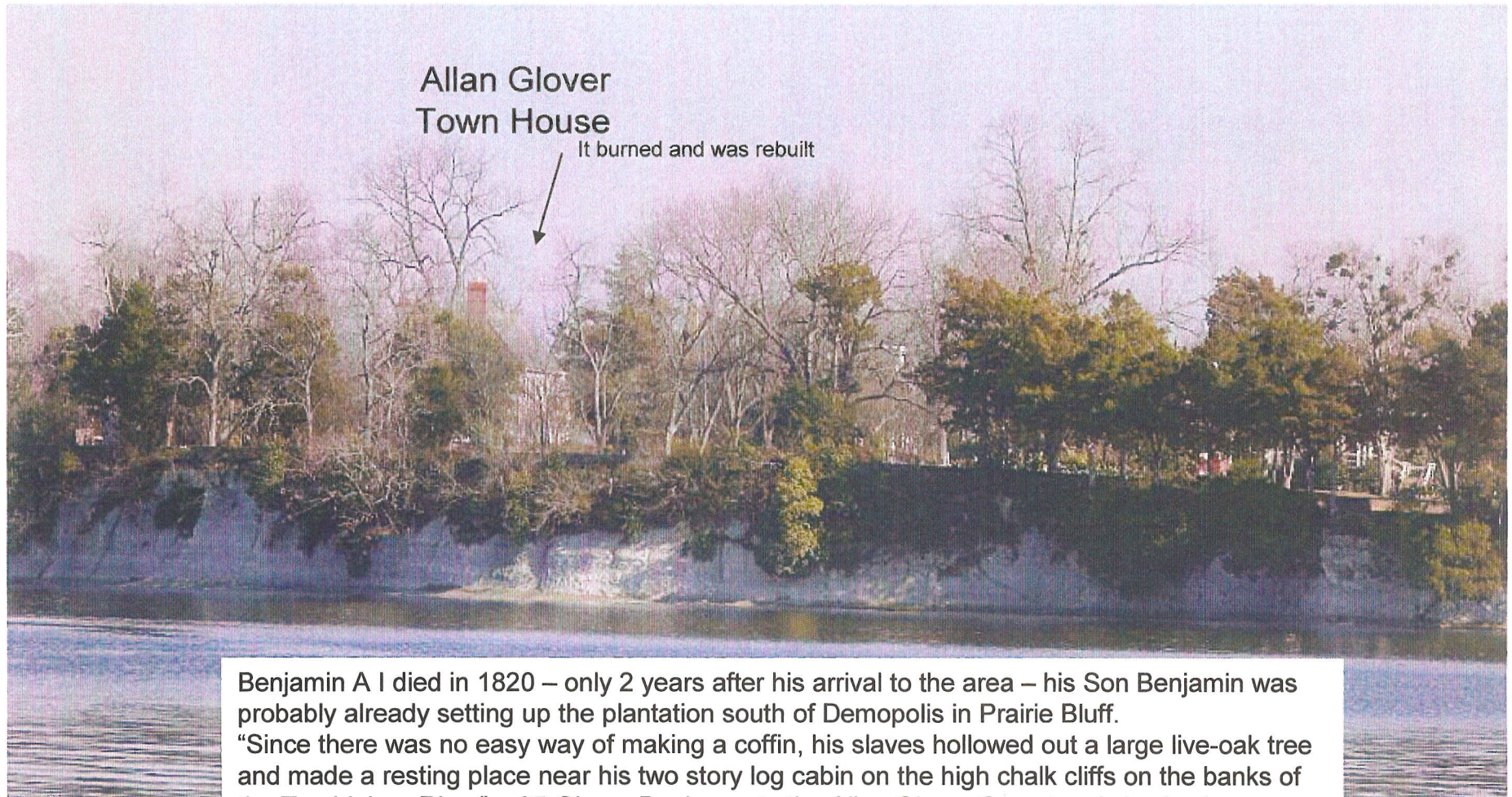
City of Demopolis today



2006 DEMOPOLIS, AL – along the Tombigbee River



I believe that while I never found Benjamin A's grave site that he was in fact buried along this portion of the river. I suspect that is why, later in Allen's life he dedicated some of his land as a burial ground – see next slide

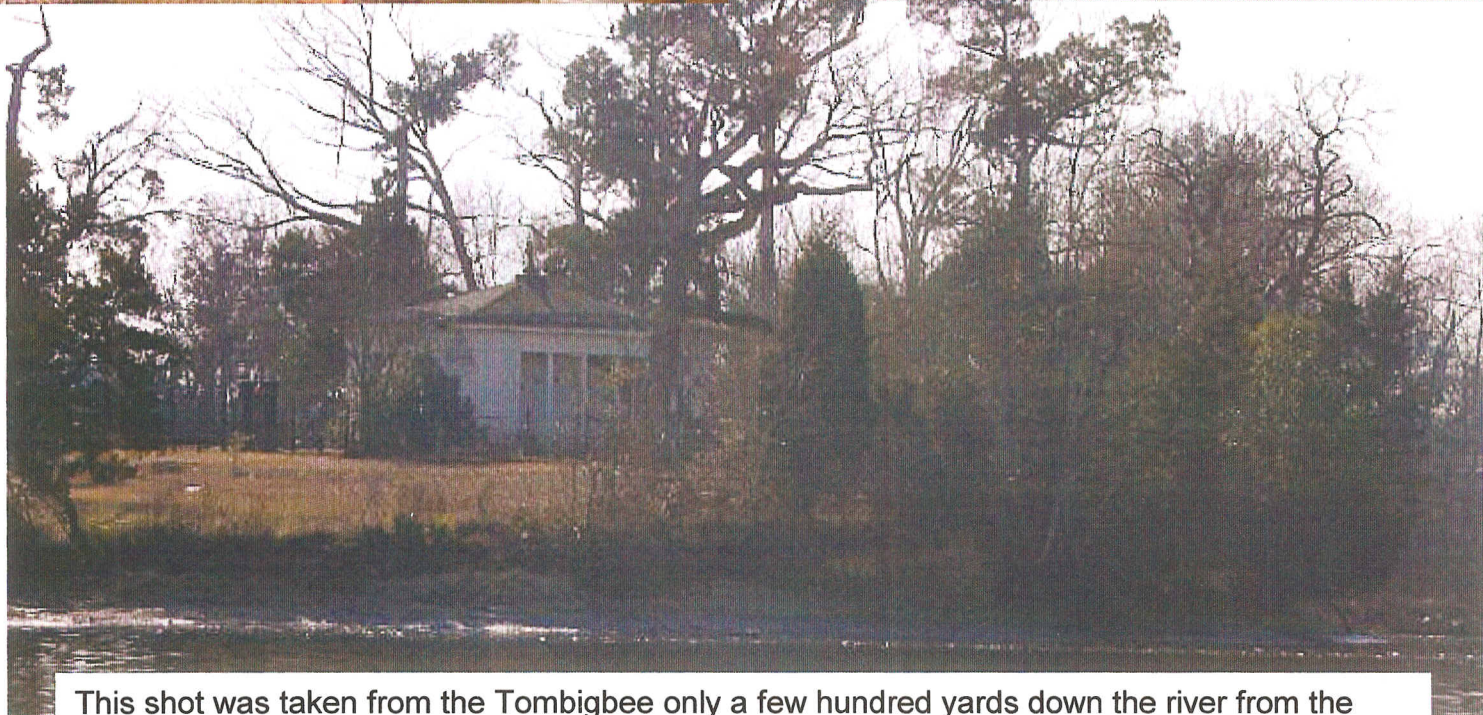


Benjamin A I died in 1820 – only 2 years after his arrival to the area – his Son Benjamin was probably already setting up the plantation south of Demopolis in Prairie Bluff.
“Since there was no easy way of making a coffin, his slaves hollowed out a large live-oak tree and made a resting place near his two story log cabin on the high chalk cliffs on the banks of the Tombigbee River” p35 Glover Book - note the Allen Glover Cemetery is in viewing distance also along the banks.

Glover Mausoleum on the water



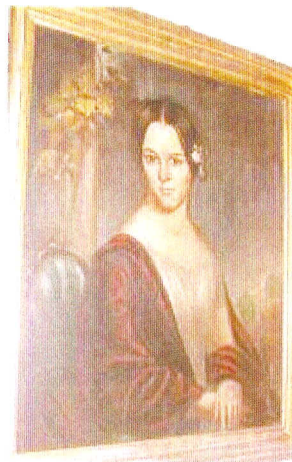
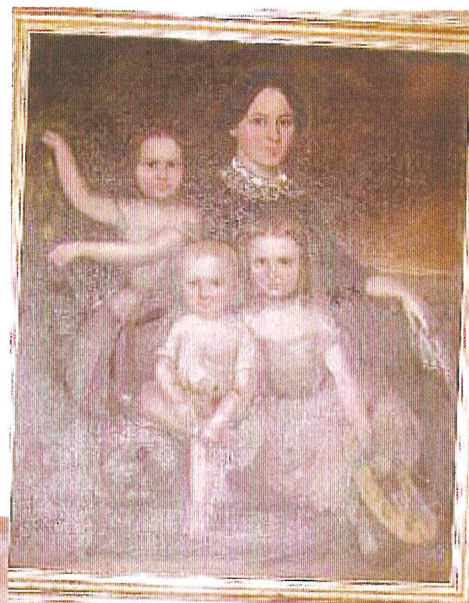
Glover Mausoleum - It is on the water



This shot was taken from the Tombigbee only a few hundred yards down the river from the previous shot of the Allen Glover Town House.



The two of them took me first to this house. This is one the houses that Allen built for his daughters. It is open to the public and is in the process of being restored to its original state



I will have write them to remember the name of this particular house

BLUFF HALL

Situated on historic White Bluff overlooking the Tombigbee River, Bluff Hall was built in 1832 by slaves of Allen Glover for his daughter, Sarah Serena, and her husband, Francis Strother Lyon.

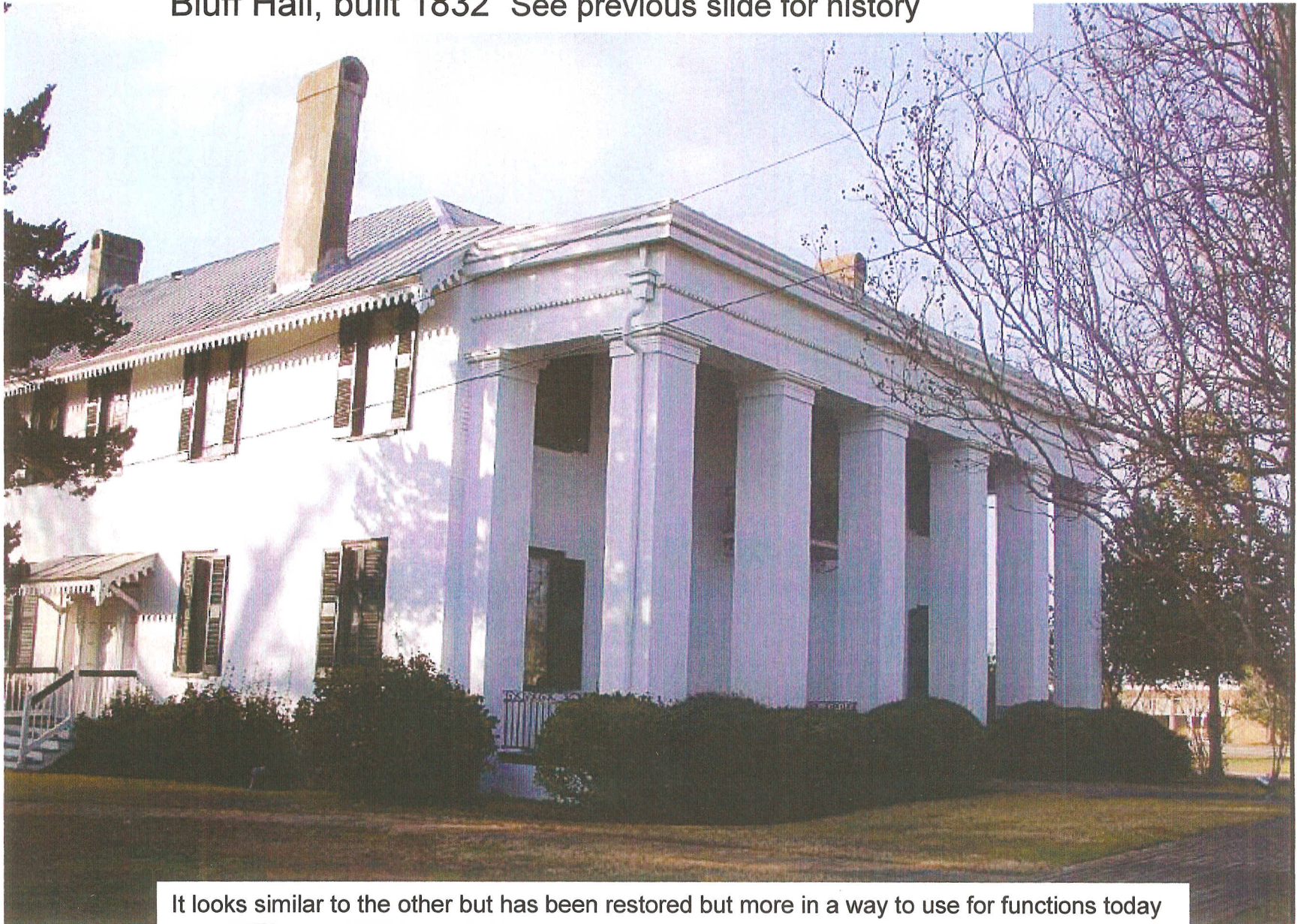
Lawyer and planter, F. S. Lyon, served in both the Confederate and the United States congresses.

Frequent war-time visitors in his house were General Leonidas Polk and General Zachary Deas.

Bluff Hall is now owned by the Marengo County Historical Society.

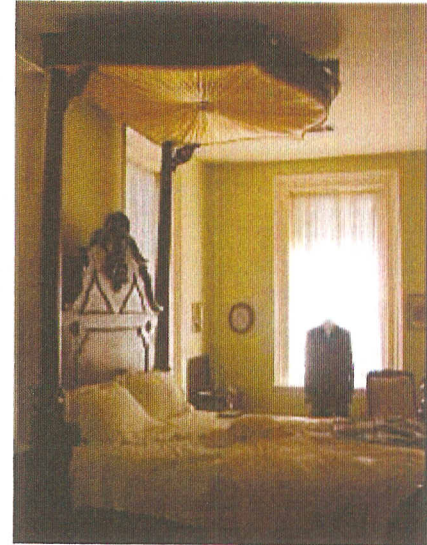
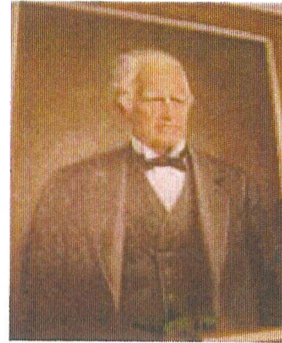
The cute couple then took me to this family home – now used often for banquet's etc..

Bluff Hall, built 1832 See previous slide for history



It looks similar to the other but has been restored but more in a way to use for functions today

Bluff Hall – This house is used for events



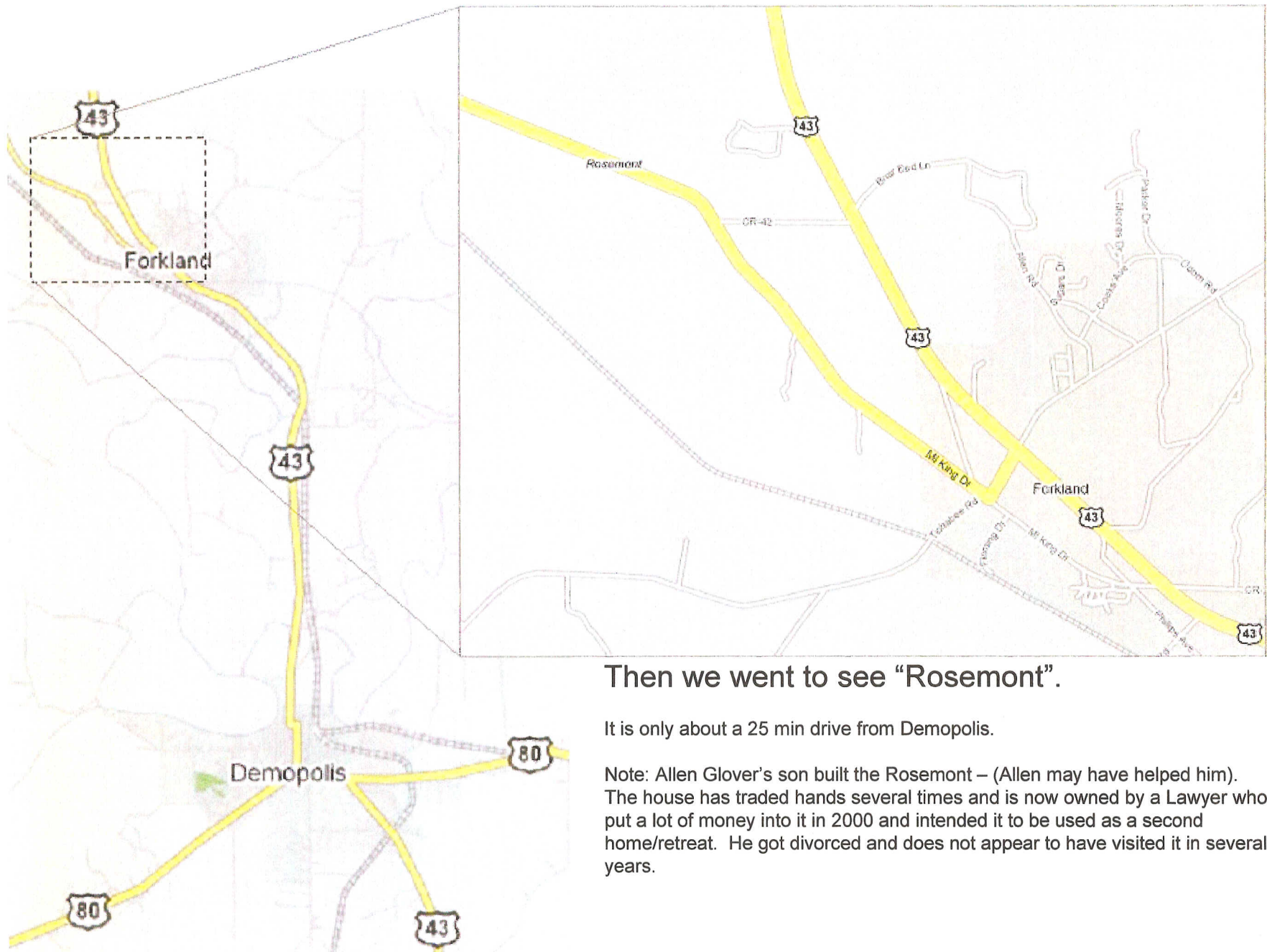
Part 3

OK, the girl had to go back to work. I thought I would push my luck and ask about the "Rosemount Plantation". I read about it (p 156) and saw the picture. It looked impressive.

I discussed it with him and he decided to drive me out to see it.

It is described in the Glover Book with a tiny picture and some comments from Fanny Jones Glover who apparently paid a visit back in the 40's. It was unclear to me who actually owned the place or how far away it was from Demopolis. It would have been impossible to find without the help of the nice historian.

The historian said he had been there once five years ago or so but felt like it was not available. He drove me to see where it was located and thought I might find the gate interesting.



Then we went to see "Rosemont".

It is only about a 25 min drive from Demopolis.

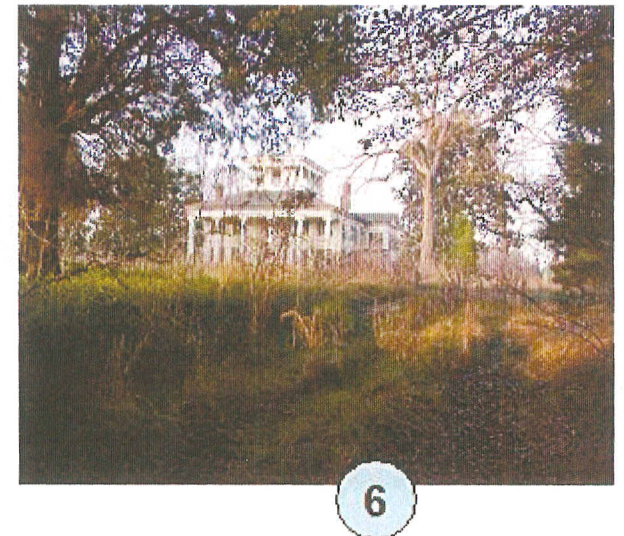
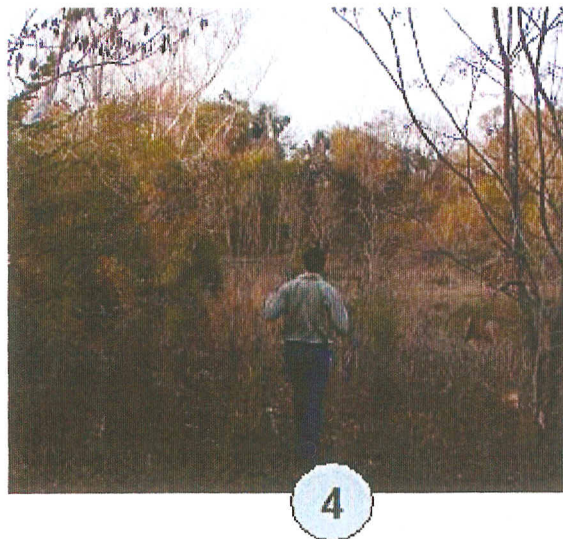
Note: Allen Glover's son built the Rosemont – (Allen may have helped him). The house has traded hands several times and is now owned by a Lawyer who put a lot of money into it in 2000 and intended it to be used as a second home/retreat. He got divorced and does not appear to have visited it in several years.

So once we get out there, I can see nothing but a gate. The gate was clearly a mid-1960's addition. "Ahhh" I said with a sad face "too bad we can get a closer look".

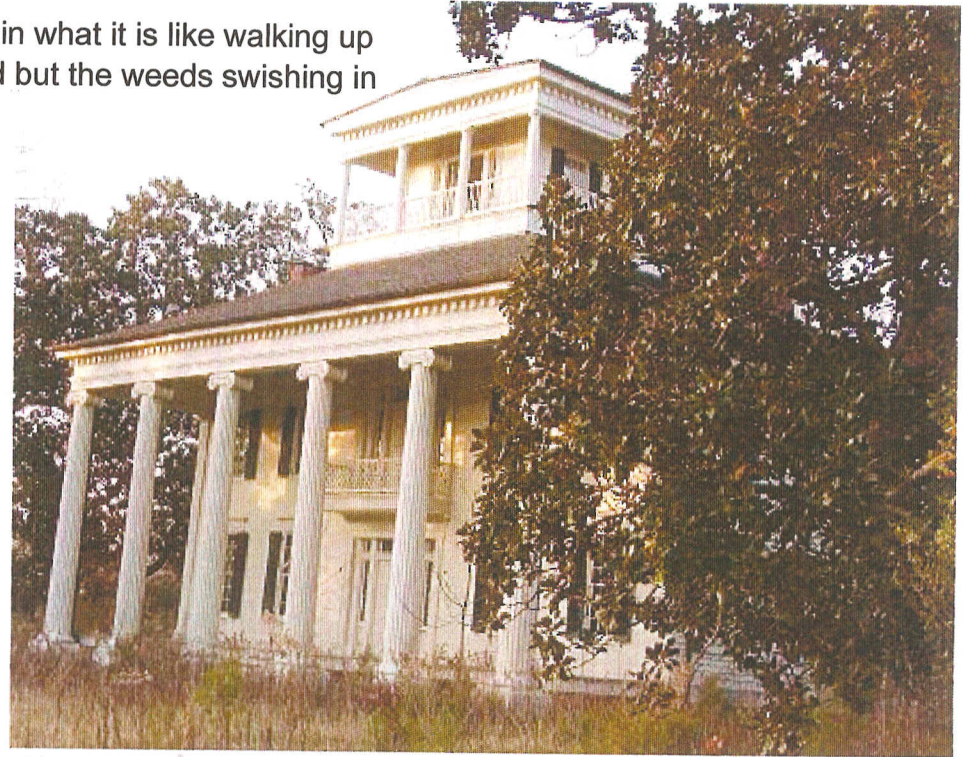
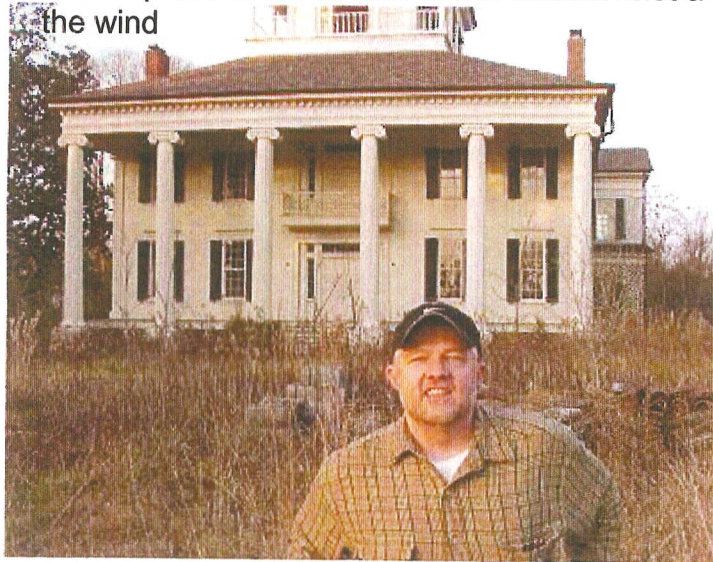


Breaking into the Rosemont Estate

The nice historian said he remembered visiting the place 5 years earlier when the new owner was actively doing restoration work. He heard the place was locked up now and vacant. I talked him into jumping the fence and walking back there to take a look. It was quite a hike and we grew little more apprehensive with every turn through the clearly over grown driveway. This is the only path to the place and as you can see no one has traveled the road for a long while.



The walk was worth it. Wow, it's hard to explain what it is like walking up on this place in the middle of the woods...not a sound but the weeds swishing in the wind



WOW – what a trip!!!

No doubt about it, Allen Glover was a complete success and took good care of his family; but, there was little mention of his brother Benjamin A or is nephew Benjamin O.

The book gets a little fuzzy here. Prairie Bluff is mention in Marengo County and another mention of plantation house in Wilcox County. The language makes it sound like Wilcox became Marengo Co at some point and there is also some mention of a burial ground around Catherine AL.

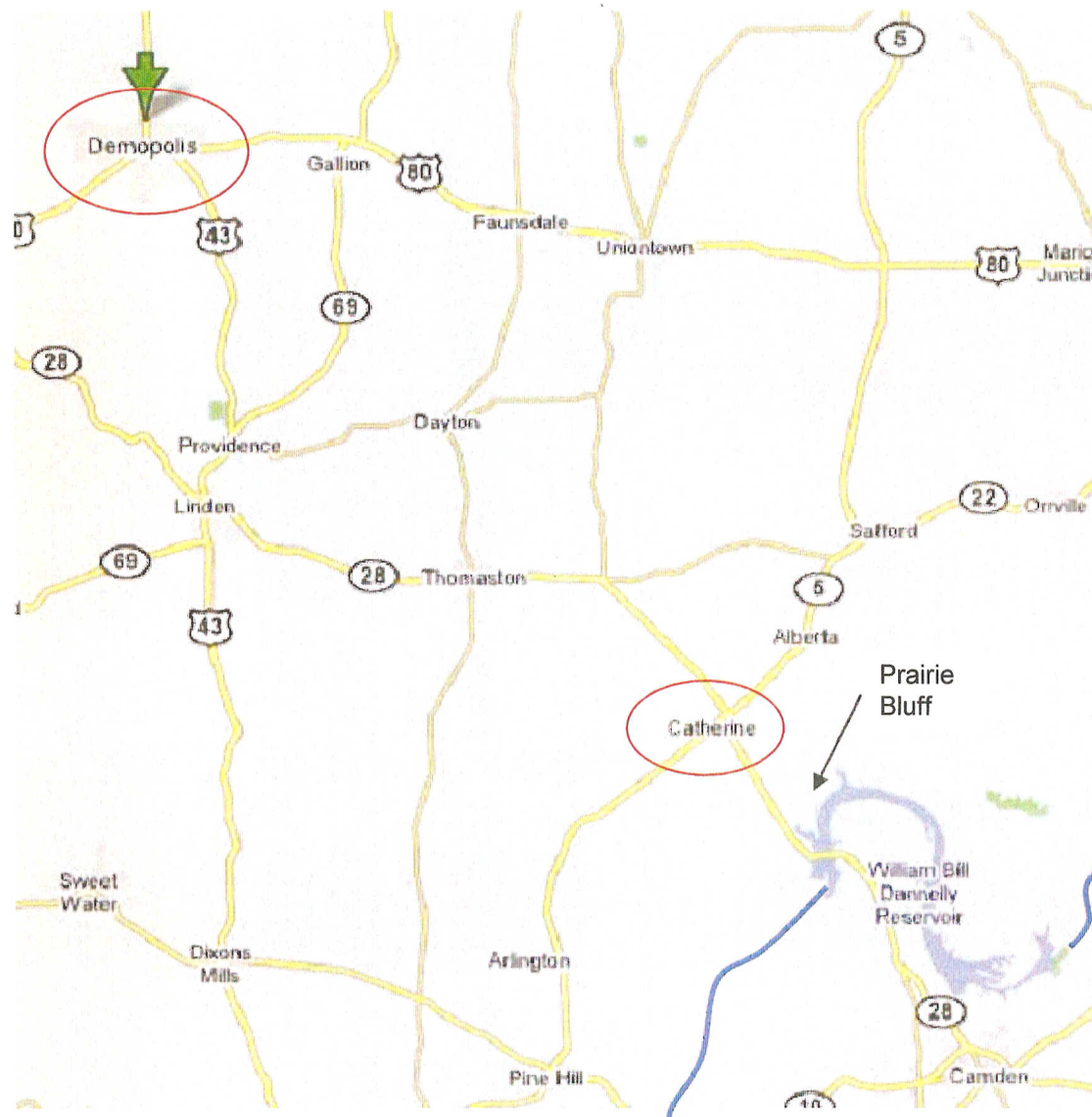
See Part 4 for my adventure to the real Wilcox Co.

"Benjamin Glover, brother of Allen, also moved to AL in 1819. He settled in Prairie bluff, Wilcox Co. Benjamin built a large home, "White Hall", which has been destroyed by fire. His son Benjamin II had a colonial home in McKinley, Wilcox Co. which in 1954 was in quite a dilapidated state. Benjamin, brother of Allen, went in 1819 to Prairie Bluff Wilcox Co. He married Mary Amanda Melvina Fitzallen Oliver, who lived at Petersburg when they married, later moved to a to a large colonial home at Calhoun Falls (SC), which was burned about 1817 or 1818. He then moved to AL in 1819. p155 Glover book

Where is Catherine AL?

Where is Prairie Bluff Wilcox Co?

Can I find the grave site of Benjamin A?



Catherine is clearly marked on the map. Not so for Prairie Bluff but with a little drilling down it is marked in tiny print off the highway 28.



Ain't much to Catherine AL but this sign along side of the rail road at the intersection of Hwy 28 and US 5. I drove around a little looking for a grave site but saw nothing.

I decided to ride a little further to see if I could find Prairie Bluff.



The drive out to Prairie Bluff? I had no idea what to expect.



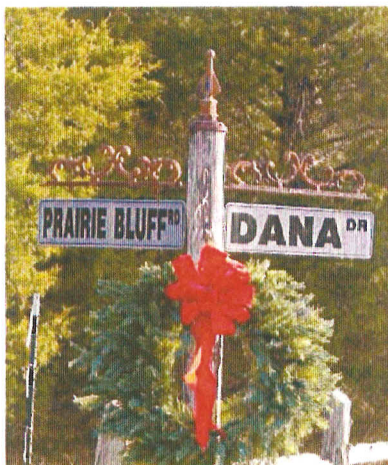
1. Quaint little church



2. Some work seems to be going on?



3. Well kept road



4. What's this a sub-division??

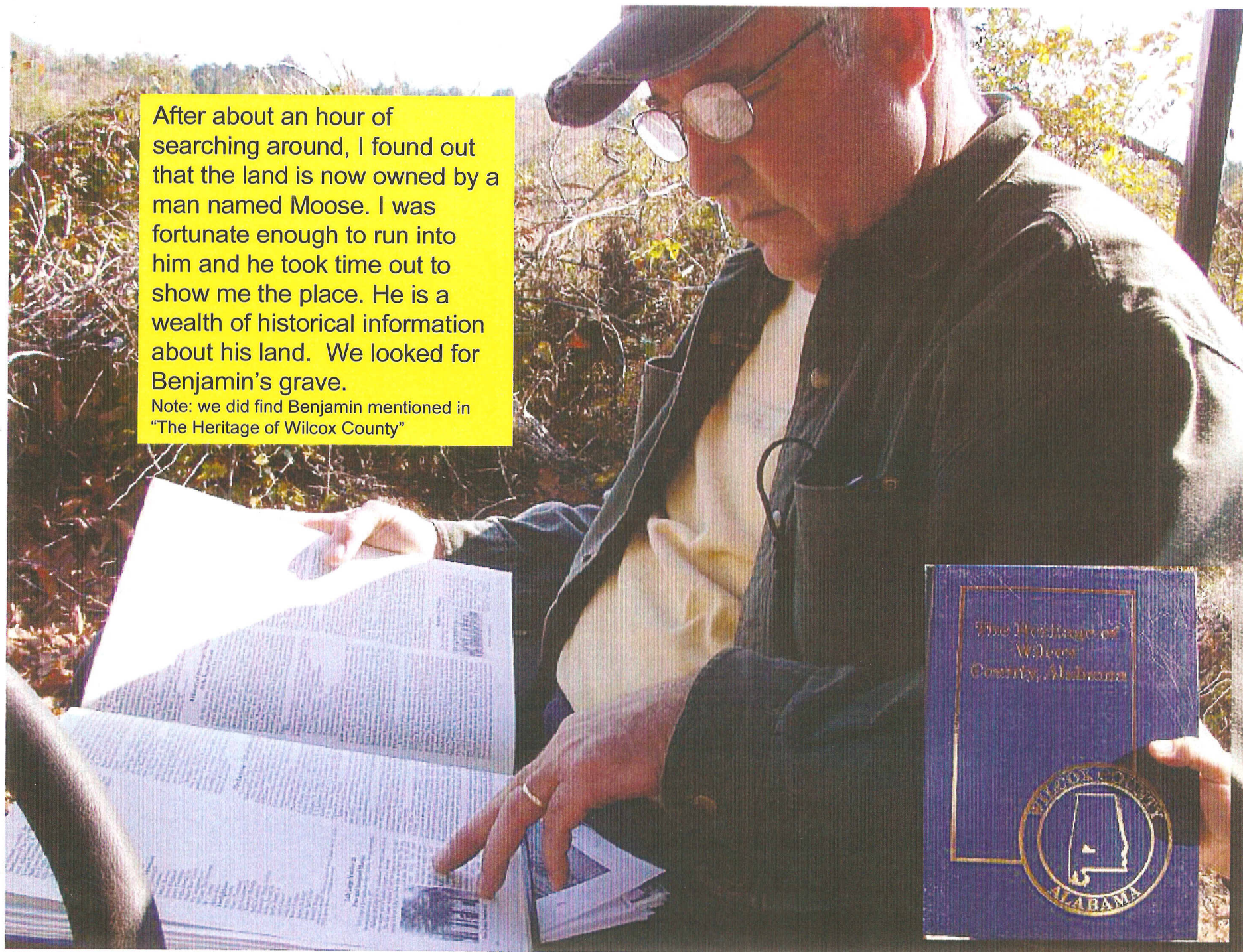


5. Ahhh, I see, the land is being carved up into beautiful river front properties



After about an hour of searching around, I found out that the land is now owned by a man named Moose. I was fortunate enough to run into him and he took time out to show me the place. He is a wealth of historical information about his land. We looked for Benjamin's grave.

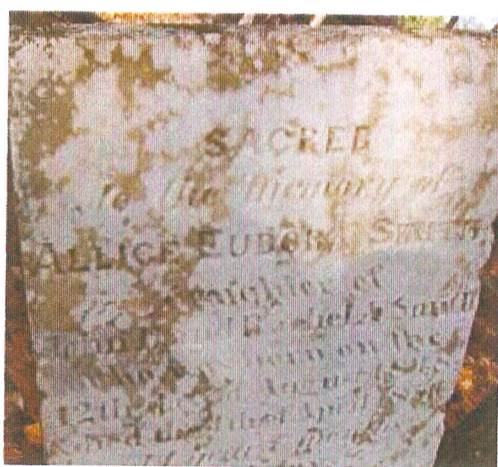
Note: we did find Benjamin mentioned in "The Heritage of Wilcox County"





< He drove me around
his place in this golf cart.

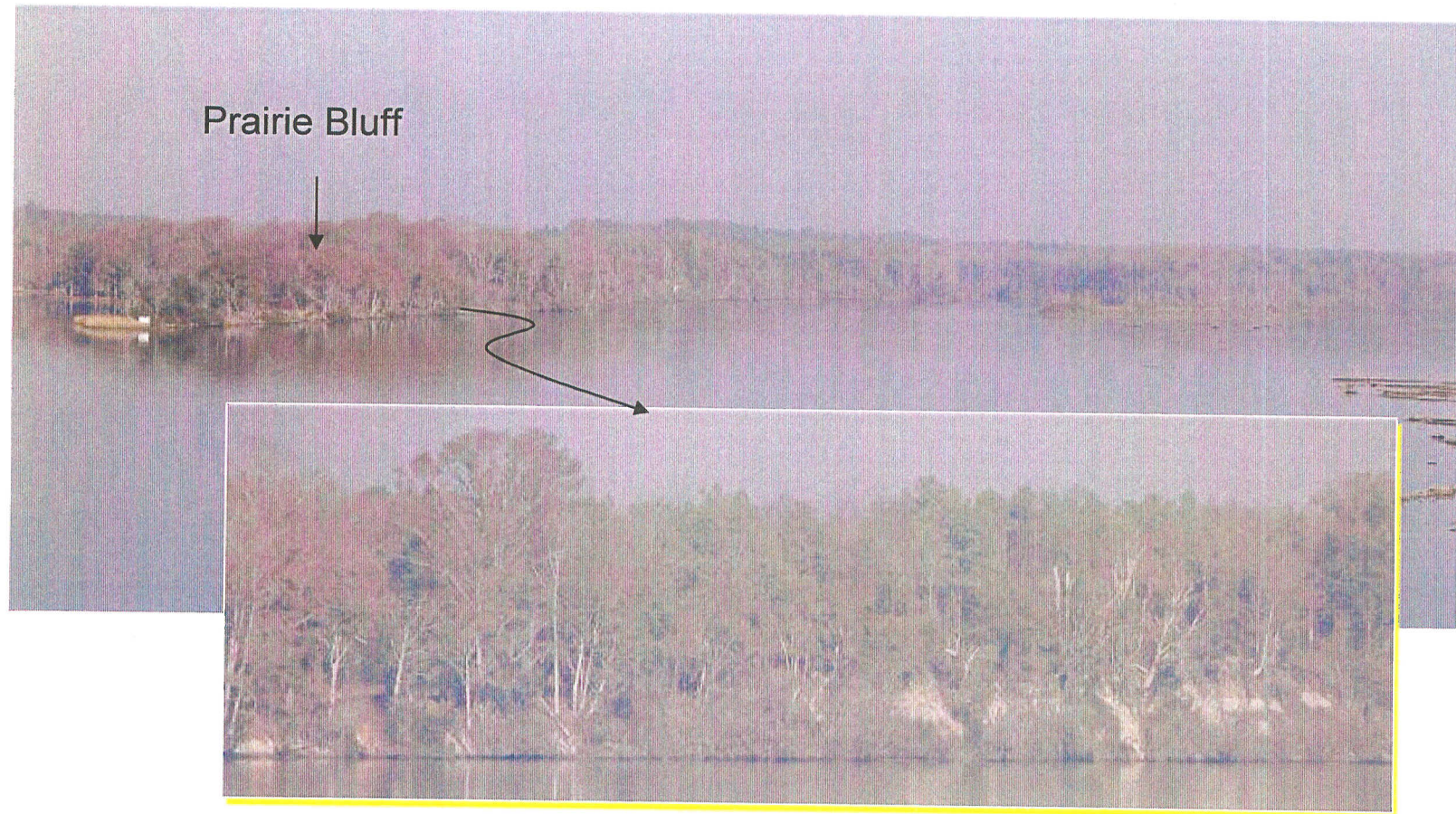
I got hopeful when I saw
this sign >



We search grave after grave...
several sites ...
but **NO** Glover's ☹

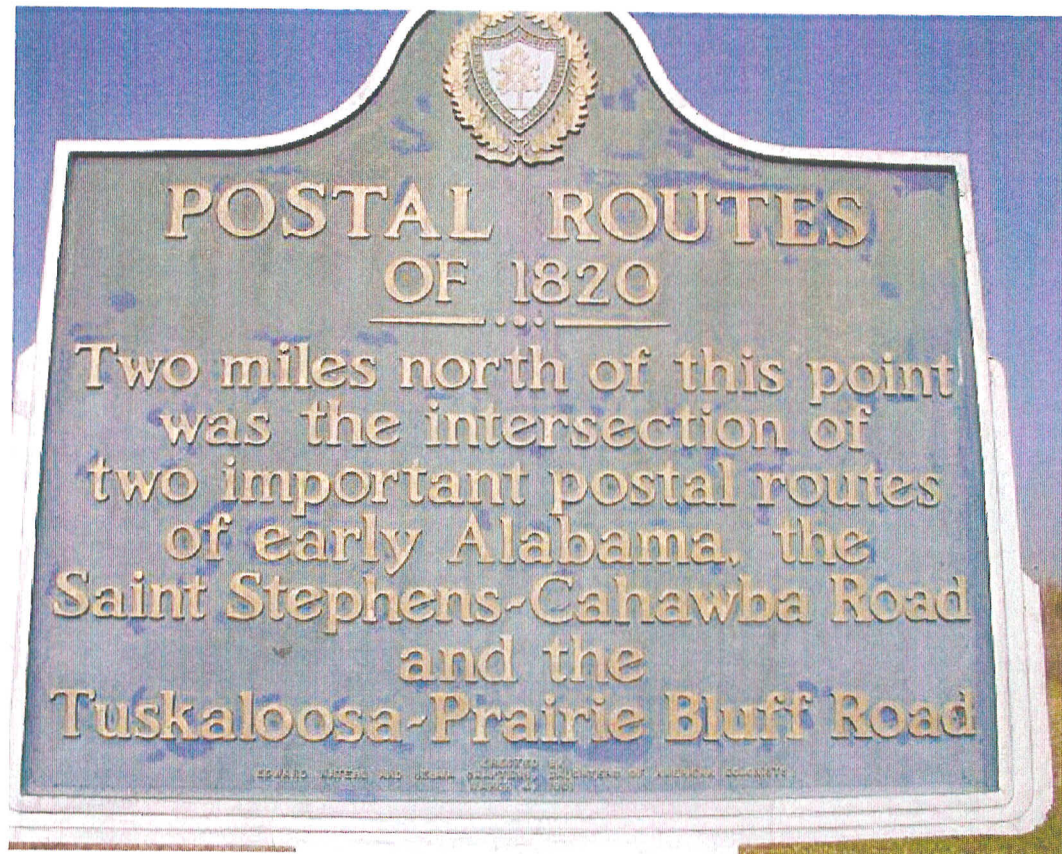
Ohh well not all is lost – I had a great weekend

Moose was fascinating. He told me that Prairie Bluff was once the largest settlement in AL. Now it has a population of about 10. Of course this will soon change with the sub-division full of waterfront lots going up for sale. Back before this river was dammed up, there were bluffs even higher than the ones we saw in the painting at Demopolis. Moose showed me another painting of this bluff with cotton sliding down onto large steamboats. The foundation for the cotton loading area is still visible. This is a truly neat place to visit.



Now it is time for me to get back to Demopolis so that I can catch a boat ride on the Tombigbee.

I caught this sign as I approached Catherine from the South. It made me want to try one more time in Catherine.





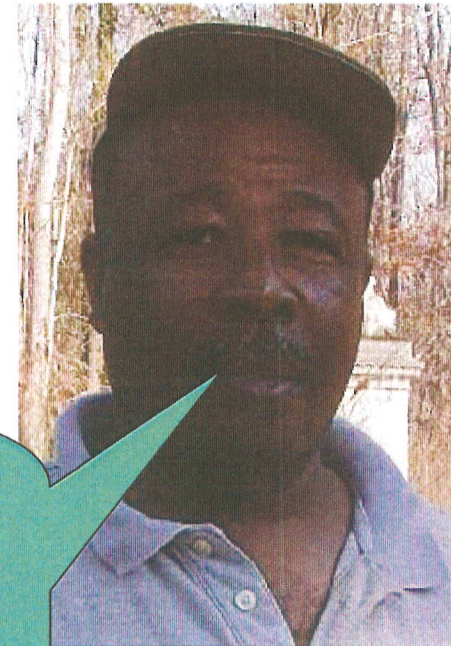
Benjamin died in Selma in 1872 on his way back to his home. "He is buried at the Glover-Creagh burial ground near the old Cooper Place (near Catherine, AL)."

"Also, I went to see Mrs. Hester and I went to the site of the Benj. Glover home, only a pile of bricks left to tell the tale."

P154



Hey buddy, can you help out a lost soul?
I am looking for a grave site around here.
My great grandmother wrote that she
used to visit (probably back in the 50's)
and said it was near Catherine AL in the
"Glover-Creagh" cemetery near old
Cooper's place.

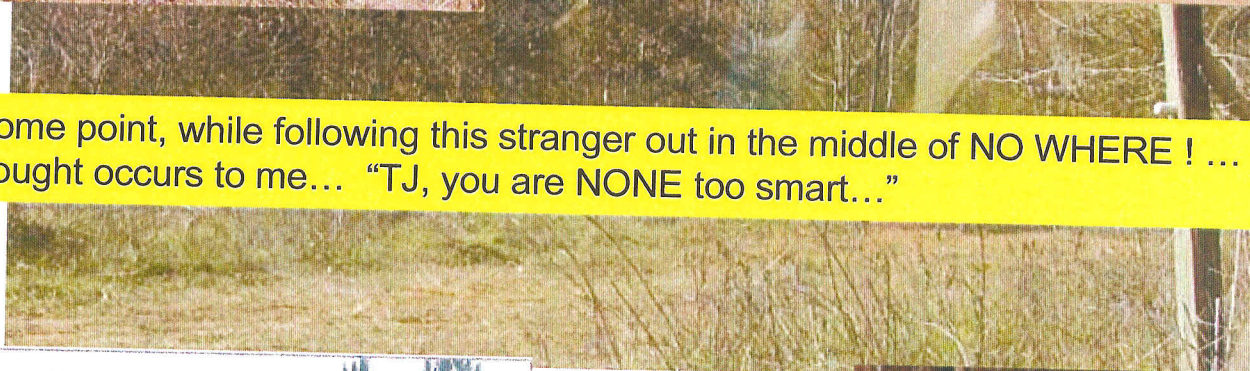


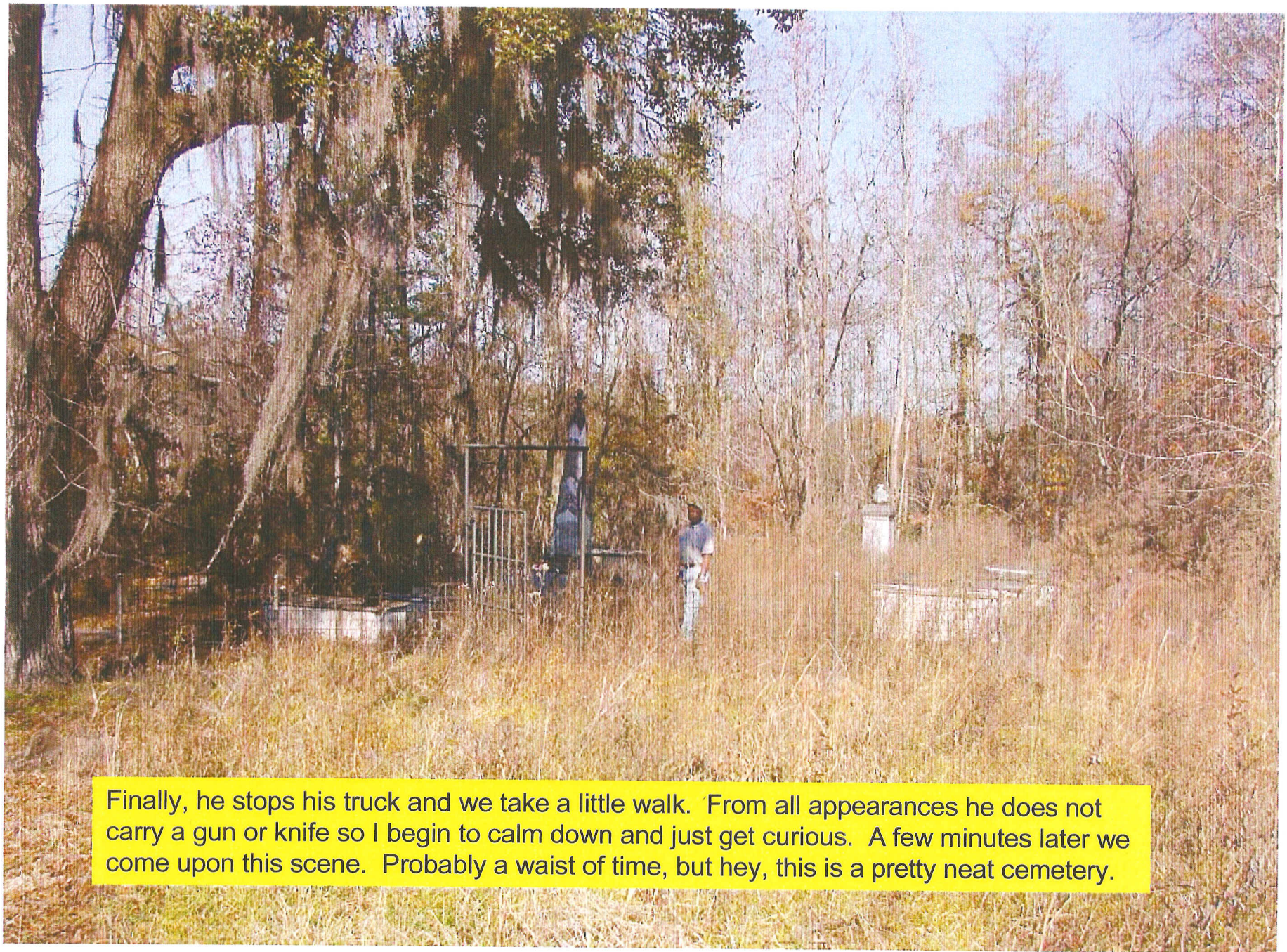
I don't know no Cooper.
Did you say "Clover" – I's know where a
Clover Creek is at.
Uhhmm...Cemetary....uhmmm

I know of dis one old cemetery not too far
from here – foller me and I'll take ya dar



At some point, while following this stranger out in the middle of NO WHERE ! ...
a thought occurs to me... "TJ, you are NONE too smart..."

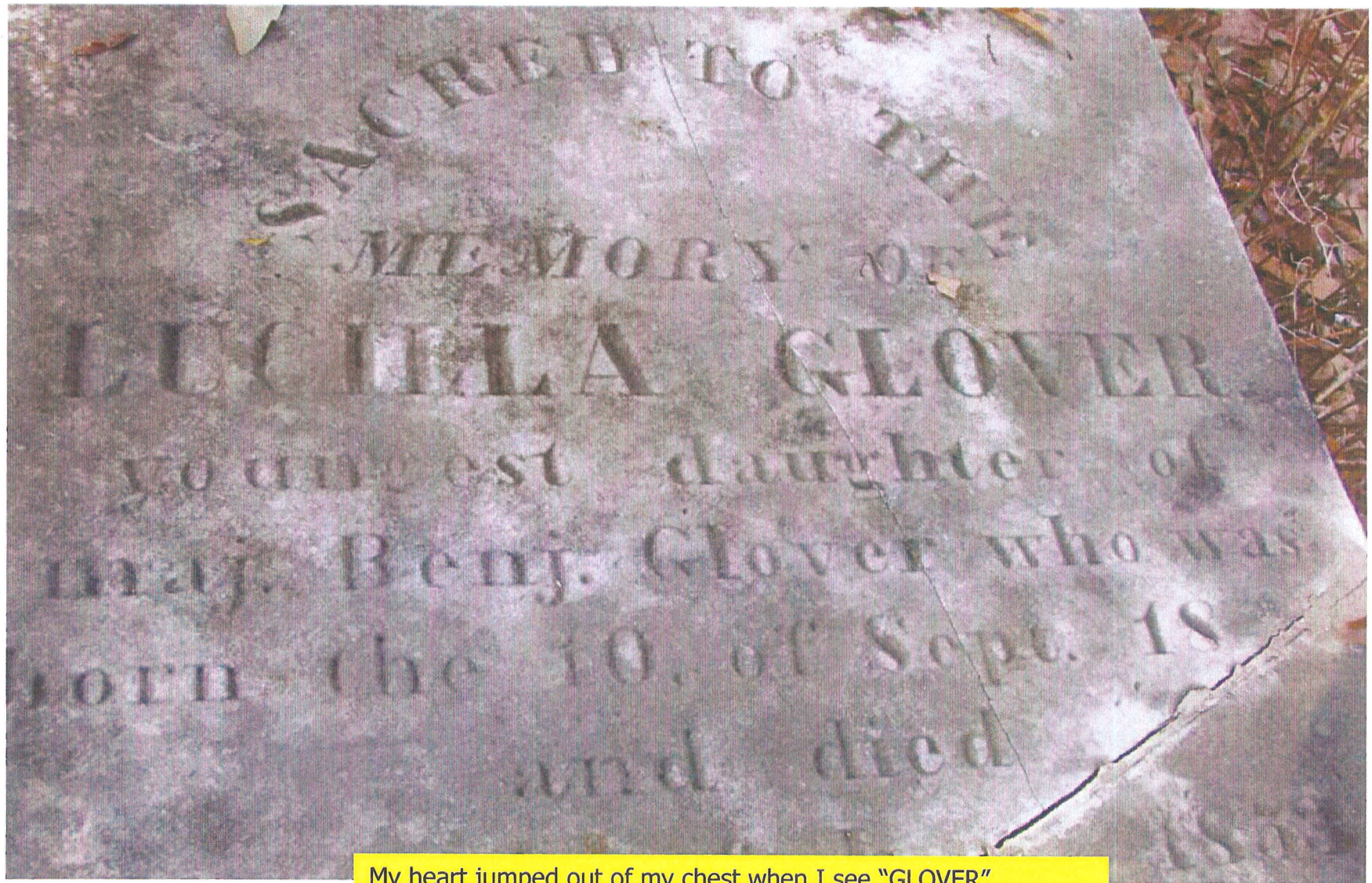




Finally, he stops his truck and we take a little walk. From all appearances he does not carry a gun or knife so I begin to calm down and just get curious. A few minutes later we come upon this scene. Probably a waist of time, but hey, this is a pretty neat cemetery.



As I walk up, an uncharacteristic breeze brushes through the air and yet there is complete silence



My heart jumped out of my chest when I see "GLOVER"
although I am unfamiliar with this Lucilla – I scurry around...

Clearly readable is
Benjamin Glover
Abbeville Dist. SC
Born May 11, 1803
Died April 12, 1872



Location of the Glover-Creagh Cemetery

